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Secretary of State Carnahan on Missouri's libraries

Robin Carnahan, Missouri's new Secretary of State, discussed Missouri libraries and a variety of library issues during a recent interview with *Newsline*. *What would you like for librarians around the state to know about your past experiences, current thoughts, and future visions associated with libraries?*

I have always believed that our public libraries are an important part of educating our citizens and keeping our communities vibrant and strong. I am committed to working closely with Missouri's libraries because I believe that an investment in our state's libraries is an investment in the future of our communities. *How do you believe your background will help you as you work to support the divisions of the Secretary of State's Office, such as the State Library?*

My family has long been involved with public service in Missouri, either by volunteering in our local communities or at times as elected officials. Just as my family has been in the past, I am dedicated to make our office evidence to Missourians that their government can work for them to provide outstanding customer service. I believe we can accomplish that goal through every division in our office. *How do you connect your role as the chief elections officer in the state with the promotion of Missouri's libraries?*

Informed and educated citizens are essential to a representative democracy, and libraries are at the very foundation of knowledge for our citizens. *How do you think the State Library can help local libraries deal with the many expectations placed on them today?*

Our public libraries are invaluable investments. Our State Library recognizes the many challenges facing Missouri's local libraries and continues to share valuable information and resources that will help local entities better serve our state's communities. Our library skills institute and other training opportunities help library employees around the state address their continuing education needs. *Lifetime Connection to Literacy*, the State Library's newest publication, shows libraries how to coordinate activities and programs to promote literacy. In addition, the State Library continues to organize the statewide summer reading program for youth and teens, to help local libraries encourage young people to read during the summer months. *Librarians must balance programs, staff, and budgets to meet public demand for both traditional and electronic services. What are your thoughts about how they should deal with this issue?*

Local librarians know best how to deal with the demands for their services. I'm sure that balancing time-honored services with modern technology is a delicate pairing for every com-



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The Missouri State Library is a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

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Check out **newsline online** (ISSN 1088-7237) at www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline/newsline.asp

munity. I have great confidence in the ability of Missouri's librarians to get the job done with the best interests of their patrons always at heart.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to be a strong advocate for the statewide technological services offered to local libraries, including the REAL program and services offered through MOREnet. Statewide programs such as these make it possible for local librarians to offer both the traditional and electronic services so critical in their communities. *How do you see libraries contributing to the economic development of their local communities as well as to the entire state?*

Our public libraries are a precious resource for people of all ages and in every corner of our state. I'm proud to know that libraries are no longer just repositories for books; they've become community centers that connect people, businesses and information together like never before. I will work hard everyday to ensure these great resources are protected and supported.

A prescription for information: MedlinePlus



Patrons often have questions about health conditions, treatments, and medications. From the public library patron

needing information on diabetes to the student doing a project on anthrax, MedlinePlus (www.medlineplus.gov), the National Library of Medicine's consumer health Web site, gives librarians a comprehensive, authoritative, and free resource for meeting patrons' health information needs.

The key to MedlinePlus' success is that it is a selective listing of authoritative health information from reputable organizations. Linking to MedlinePlus from your library's Web site is a great way to provide patrons with access to quality, reviewed medical information.

More than 650 health topics form the core of MedlinePlus. The health topics pages are the entry point for hundreds of different subjects, with additional ones added each week. They provide links to information, current news, connections to related topics, and more. All of the resources included on the health topics pages provide the full text for free online.

Barbara Jones, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine liaison for Missouri, can answer questions or provide training for library staff interested in MedlinePlus,

PubMed, or any other National Library of Medicine databases. She can be reached at (800) 338-7657 or jonesbarb@health.missouri.edu.

New online database targets Chinese community in St. Louis

Over 200 popular Chinese magazines are now available to members of St. Louis County's Chinese community, thanks to a new database at the St. Louis County Library. The database is available at all the library branches and through remote access.

The addition of the database, called Qikan, is part of a continuing effort to provide new or enhanced services to the area's Chinese community. Qikan includes titles geared toward a variety of applications, interests, and age levels – from scholarly research journals to titles on current events, parenting, sports, and travel.

Articles are available in either traditional or simplified Chinese text, and the database is updated daily. Back issues of magazines are available, and patrons can use a bilingual search guide to find what they need.

St. Louis County Director Dan Wilson says Qikan is part of an overall ongoing effort to enhance services to the Chinese community. Other planned educational and cultural services for Chinese patrons include additional Chinese language books, magazines, and newspapers available at the library, as well as bilingual classes on English language instruction and other topics.



Celebrating National Library Workers Day

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan celebrates National Library Workers Day with Missouri State Library employees on April 12, 2005. National Library Workers Day has been celebrated on the Tuesday of National Library Week since 2004.

Handbook helps libraries increase literacy activities

In February, public libraries across the state received a copy of the State Library's newest publication, *Lifetime Connections to Literacy*. The handbook is intended to help public libraries increase their literacy activities and focus.

The handbook was created through a series of meetings with librarians, who designed its structure and organization. Participants agreed the document should be a flexible set of resources rather than a treatise on literacy, so it has been designed as a toolkit rather than a textbook.

Seven sections in the handbook separate literacy issues by age group, from infants and preschoolers to low-literate adults. Each section is separated into three parts: an introduction, activity notes, and reproducible information. While the activity notes offer ideas for literacy activities, the reproducible information is designed to be copied and distributed in the library as needed.

Additional copies of the handbook are available from the State Library, and plans are underway to make it available on the Web. Contact literacy consultant Marge Kudrna at (800) 325-0131, ext. 17, for additional information.

Wolfner featured in *American Libraries*

The February 2005 issue of *American Libraries* featured an article on the status of romance novels in libraries, and featured Wolfner Library's online readers' advisory lists that cater to fans of the genre. Reader advisor Cheryl Hassler discussed the process she uses for creating the lists and how she takes care to tailor lists to the different types of romance novels that appeal to her readers. Wolfner offers romance bibliographies like "Love in the Old West," "Time Travel Romance," and "Gothic Romance" that show a sample of the library's collection and target a reader's preference to the type of novel he or she wants to read.

The article also mentioned a presentation



WEB WATCH

Online Women's Business Center

www.onlinewbc.gov

Created in cooperation with the Small Business Administration, the Center's goal is to provide entrepreneurial women with the information and expertise necessary for starting their own businesses.

Lonely Planet Online

www.lonelyplanet.com

On this site aimed at the adventurous traveler, mini-versions of the well-known print travel guides are available. When to go, what to see, how to get there, and other tips are included.

on the attitudes of Missouri librarians toward reader's advisory services for romance fiction. The presentation, given at the Library Research Seminar last October, was given by Denice Adkins, Linda Esser, and Diane Velasquez of the University of Missouri.

September project events organization

Coordinators of the "September Project" recently announced the worldwide undertaking would occur again in 2005. Libraries and other public spaces across the world are encouraged to organize events for the weekend of September 11 to celebrate democracy, citizenship, and patriotism. Last year the coordinated effort to foster civic events across the country involved nearly 500 events in all 50 states and 8 countries. In Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Fairview, Albany, Gentry County, and Kansas City all participated by offering various events and programs.

Since September 11 falls on a Sunday this

year and many libraries are closed or have limited hours, coordinators suggest scheduling activities for whenever it's appropriate for the library. Many venues last year were scheduled throughout the week of September 11 to accommodate academic and community schedules. The key for planning a meaningful and successful event is to be flexible and consider the issues that matter to the community.

The project's Web site, www.theseptemberproject.org, offers a detailed listing of last year's events, providing great ideas for libraries to use this year. Other resources and publicity materials are also available, and those interested in receiving updates or specific details should subscribe to the project's listserv.

Visit www.theseptemberproject.org to learn more about the project and to sign up as a participating library, and once again show the world that libraries are a vital resource in building stronger communities.

Winter Institute

Fifty-five people from Missouri's libraries attended this year's Winter Library Skills Institute, which gives non-degreed library staff the chance to study library standards, customer service, collection development, technology, and other relevant topics. Summer Institute is scheduled for August 2-5, 2005, in Columbia.

(Lloyd Grotjan photo)





An image from the NYPL Digital Gallery shows the Missouri State Capitol during its dedication ceremony in 1924.

NYPL launches digital image gallery

A large treasury of images from the collections of the New York Public Library are now accessible free of charge over the Internet. The NYPL Digital Library, found at <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/>, offers prints, illuminated manuscripts, photographs, maps, postcards, cigarette cards, menus, posters, and many other visual materials.

The initial 275,000 items in the NYPL Digital Gallery were selected by curators from all divisions of the New York Public Library's four research libraries.

"Whether it's a historian studying the Revolutionary War, a scenic designer researching old New York neighborhoods, or a fashion designer looking for inspiration in vintage clothing, the digital gallery will provide unparalleled resources and access," said David S. Ferriero, the library's Andrew W. Mellon director and chief executive of the research libraries. "Within the next several months, we expect that the quantity of

materials available will double to 500,000 items."

There are several methods to navigate through the images – browsing by broad topics, collections, subject words, or names, and searching by keywords or identification number. Each image has been individually described with extensive metadata to accommodate precise searches, and all can be downloaded free of charge for personal use.

New science writing and illustration awards announced

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) recently announced the winners of the first ever SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books at their annual Family Science Days event in Washington, D.C.

SB&F (Science Books and Films), the review journal of AAAS, marks its 40th anniversary this year with the creation of the SB&F Prizes celebrating science writing and illustration. The 2005 SB&F Prizes honor five authors and one illustrator for their lasting contribution to science literature for children and young adults. Hundreds of area children and their families attended Family Science Day and got the chance to see the six winning authors accept their prizes.

- Children's Science Books authors: Patricia Lauber, Laurence Pringle, and Seymour Simon
- Children's Hands-on Science Books author: Bernie Zubrowski
- Children's Science Book illustrator: Jim Arnosky
- Young Adult Science Book author: James Trefil

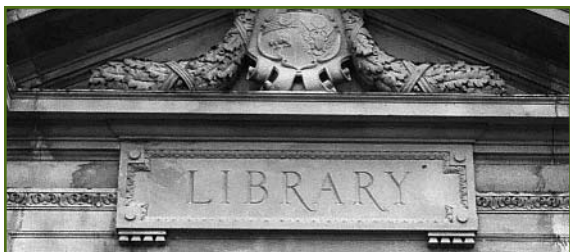
The 2006 SB&F Prizes will honor recently published, individual science books. For more information on the SB&F Prizes, visit www.sbsonline.com/prizes.

New Sci-Fi award for young adult market

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) has created a new literary award to recognize outstanding science fiction and fantasy novels that are written for the young adult market.

The award has been named in honor of Andre Norton, a SFWA Grand Master and author of more than 100 novels, including the acclaimed *Witch World* series, many of them for young adult readers. Norton's work has influenced generations of young people, creating new fans of the fantasy and science fiction genres and setting the standard for excellence in fantasy writing.

The Andre Norton Award for an outstanding young adult science fiction or fantasy book is an annual honor that will first be given in 2006. Nominations will be based on the same process as the SFWA Nebula™ Awards, and any book published as a young adult science fiction/fantasy novel will be eligible, including graphic novels with no limit on word length. Watch the SFWA Web site (www.sfwaweb.org) for forthcoming information on the award.



Missouri Library News

newsline welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

Public libraries open new and renovated buildings

Across the state, communities continue to realize the value and importance of their local public libraries. The following five libraries are perfect examples of that, having found the resources to make significant improvements to their facilities.

Pulaski County Library dedicated its new Crocker branch in January. The branch was dedicated in honor of Norma Lea Mihalevich, a longtime library advocate and a founding member of the library board that eventually became the Pulaski County Library District. The library resides in the former county health department building and is located across the street from the elementary school. It has a study room with ten computers, a reading room, and a bookshop.

Bollinger County celebrated the renovation and expansion of their library with an open house in November. The library added 2,800 square feet to the present building and made significant changes to the children's area to better serve their younger patrons. The former adult reading room was transformed into a young adult room, and a new

reading/reference room will serve adults. The renovation effort involved the whole library staff, who painted, cleaned, moved furniture, and built shelves, baseboards, and moldings while keeping the library open for regular services.

Ralls County started work on their new library in March 2004, and celebrated the new facility with an open house last December. The new library was built on property that adjoined the old facility, and the expanded space includes a reading room, genealogy room, offices for library staff, and a boardroom. Over 100 people attended the open house.

Webb City Public Library has resided in a Carnegie building since 1915, but the building had become too small for the community's needs. Voters approved a one-eighth-cent sales tax in 2002 to finance an expansion and renovation of the Carnegie library, and board members raised an additional \$1 million to cover all the expenses. The renovated library opened in February and now has double the floor space of the original, and includes a literacy center, two meeting rooms, and space for a computer lab. While the original building was completely remodeled, architects took special care to maintain the original architectural elements such as the unique stained glass and woodwork throughout the building.

After the devastating tornado that destroyed the **Pierce City branch of the Barry-Lawrence Library** in May 2003, the library was faced with not only constructing



The new Pierce City branch of the Barry-Lawrence County Library increases the library's square footage from 2,400 to 4,374 feet.

a new building but completely replacing the entire collection. While library administrators developed plans for reconstruction, hundreds of donated books arrived in boxes from around the country.

The new library, which opened on February 15, 2005, cost almost \$500,000 to build. Funding came from donations, insurance, federal and state emergency management funds, a community development block grant, and county tax dollars. The new community room in the library was funded with a \$75,000 donation from David H. Jones, a former resident who had made a significant donation to build the original library and for whom the new library is named. Jones, State Librarian Sara Parker, and other dignitaries were on hand in February when the library held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new facility.

Over 12,000 items had to be cataloged and processed for the new branch, and library employees report that circulation has tripled in Pierce City since the new library opened.

Little House fans enjoy Wilder Month at Springfield-Greene

Laura Ingalls Wilder's books are perennial favorites at libraries, and to celebrate the Little House charm and popularity, Springfield-Greene County declared March "Wilder Month" at the library. A \$5,000 grant from the Missouri Humanities Council allowed the library to present exhibits, book discussions, and a variety of programs for adults and children. Their partners for the celebration included the Wilder Home and Museum in Mansfield and the library's friends group.

A 16 panel free-standing exhibit was created by library associate Lori Stroudt, which was displayed at the Library Center in March, and will be at the Library Station through June. The exhibit, titled "Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Journey of a Pioneer Family," will also travel to other Missouri libraries and out-of-state museums.

The library held a kick-off event that drew crowds to have their picture taken in period

clothing and to attend programs such as "Stories from Laura" and "A 19th Century Childhood." At the Midtown Carnegie branch, patrons listened to traditional fiddle pieces while snacking on gingerbread made from a recipe Wilder used.

"One of the most fun and unique things about the kick-off celebration was that we were able to provide activities that incorporated four of the five senses," said Martha Love, Midtown Carnegie branch manager. "Patrons could taste, touch, see, and feel a little bit of the 19th century."

The library also sold Laura-related merchandise in their gift shops and created five bookmarks featuring booklists by, about, and adapted from Laura Ingalls Wilder. Five of the eight branches had themed displays of artifacts from the Wilder Home and Museum, including a replica of the covered wagon the Wilders traveled in during their journey from South Dakota to Mansfield in 1894. More than 1,270 children and adults attended the events.

Salem library receives monetary gift and manuscript donation

Salem Public Library recently received two large monetary gifts and one sizeable research and manuscript donation. The monetary gifts, totaling over \$383,700, came from two local estates – former patrons who realized the importance of the library's role in the community.

The manuscript collection was donated by Dent County native Paulette Jiles, author of the Civil War novel, *Enemy Women*. Jiles gave her notes, extensive research files, copies of the novel in four languages, and her original manuscript to the library. A good part of the collection is now on display in the library, with the remaining items archived and available by request.

Joplin art library damaged in car crash

For the third time in the Joplin Public Library's history, a car crashed into the build-

Upcoming Events



June 23-29

ALA 2005 Annual Conference, Chicago

July 15

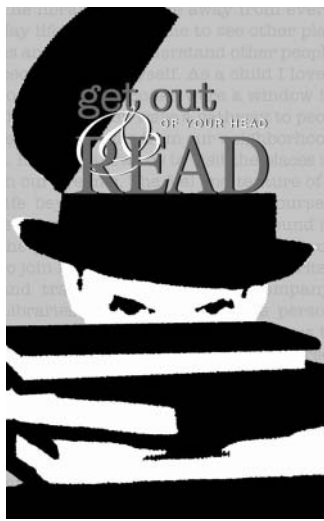
MOREnet Council Meeting

July 25

Missouri Census Data Center Training Conference

August 2-5

Library Skills Institute



Adult reading club at St. Louis County Library

The St. Louis County Library's Adult Reading Club encourages participants to read 10 books from March 1 – May 31. The library celebrated the club with a literary soiree on May 20, 2005 at the library's headquarters, which featured Missouri author Patricia Corrigan as guest speaker and included a readers' information fair with displays by literary organizations and clubs. The St. Louis Bread Company and the St. Louis Cardinals cosponsored the club.

ing on January 23, 2005. The crash was a result of a police pursuit and left a hole in the building's south wall and seriously damaged valuable antiques on display in the library's special art reference collection.

The Post Memorial Art Reference Library has been housed in the southwest wing of the Joplin Public Library since 1981, and the early morning crash propelled a 16th century English court cupboard six feet and caused a gap to appear between some of the boards. A 15th century Italian Madonna sculpture was cracked because of the impact and is missing some chip flakes. The crash also destroyed an 18th century Chinese vase. Leslie Simpson, the reference library's director, said the items were worth several thousand dollars each.

"These items are exceptional treasures rarely found outside of museums in large cities," said Simpson. "Joplin is fortunate to have them here, and we will do all that we can to restore the damaged pieces or find comparable replacements."

Joplin Public Library Director Carolyn Trout said as much as 20 feet of the wall may have to be replaced. Prior incidents at the library occurred in 2001, when a man drove his car through the front door of the library, and in 1982, when a vehicle crashed into the west wall.

April tax levies provide mostly positive results

Proposed tax levies across the state produced mixed results for Missouri libraries during the April 5 election. Albany, Cedar County, and Randolph County all proposed standard library levies, while the cities of Mountain View and West Plains proposed sales tax increases to benefit their libraries and other city properties.

Albany's Carnegie Public Library levy passed with a vote of 211 to 193, and will result in an almost 50% increase in their operating funds. Cedar County lost its six-cent tax increase by only 26 votes, and Randolph County voters approved a 25 cent levy to benefit the Little Dixie Regional Libraries.

Two libraries benefited from the approval

of sales tax levies in their communities. The City of Mountain View passed a one-fourth-cent sales tax that will impact the public library. West Plains extended its existing half-cent sales tax for another seven years. The sales tax supports improvements to city facilities, including the West Plains Public Library.

Vote for Books lets children make a choice

Seven library systems in a multi-county, bi-state area worked together last fall to provide children with the opportunity to "Vote for Books." To coincide with national elections during the first week of November, colorful voting booths were set up in over 55 public library locations in the Kansas City metro area. Children were invited to cast their vote for their favorite book character.

Ballots showing candidates' picture and name prevented the chance of hanging chads, and voting could be done absentee at library outreach programs. Children cast their votes by putting an "X" next to their choice.

A diverse range of candidates, including *Amazing Grace*, *Amber Brown*, *Yoko*, and *Esperanza* competed for the women's vote, with the *Beaudelaires* and *Berenstains* as family candidates and *Cat in the Hat* and *Clifford* representing the animals. To no one's surprise, the prince from across the pond, *Harry Potter*, won the "election" with 1,359 votes. The *Cat in the Hat* pulled a second place finish with 1,089 votes. Altogether over 6,200 children voted.

Vote for Books is the second cooperative project for Metro Youth Services, a loose-knit group of children's and young adult librarians from Johnson County Public Library (KS), Olathe Public Library (KS), Mid-Continent Public Library (MO), North Kansas City Public Library (MO), Kansas City Public Library (MO), Cass County Public Library (MO), and Kansas City Public Library (KS).



Students at the Sikeston Public Library use computers donated by Apple Computer, Inc. The six terminals included with the exhibit feature different NASA-related activities.

NASA exhibit hosted at St. Louis and Sikeston

Two Missouri libraries are hosting an interactive exhibit on NASA, space, and science, sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). St. Louis Public Library housed the exhibit during March, and Sikeston Public Library has it until the end of May.

The exhibit, called “NASA @ your library,” is a three-year program developed by the Office of Biological and Physical Research, NASA, and the ALA. Topics showcased in the exhibit include Space Shuttle operations; living, working, and conducting research aboard the international Space Station; and information on future aerospace activities. A plasma screen and audio dome showcase weekly presentations (played continuously) that show how NASA has improved health, home and transportation, agriculture and the environment, and commerce.

The traveling exhibit is offered in conjunction with a Web site www.ala.org/nasa, which provides child-friendly space infor-

mation to children from 8 to 12 years old. The program aims to raise awareness and interest in science, encourage young people to pursue careers in science, and increase the visibility of NASA programs and their findings.

Henry County receives part of local trust

The Henry County Library is one of three local recipients of more than \$1.1 million from former Clinton native Taylor Francisco. Income from the trust goes to the Henry County Library annually to purchase books for the collection. The library will use the funds to upgrade and expand the reference collection. The first purchases include medical and other reference books usually outside the reach of the library’s budget.

Francisco also donated his personal library over almost 1,000 books and videos, many of which were added to the library’s collection. A local community foundation and high school share the funds received from the trust.

Internet Archive collaborates with libraries

While Google made headlines announcing its library digitization program in December, the Internet Archive (www.archive.org) announced its own plans for expanding its open access archive to digitized book collections. Ten major international libraries have joined the Internet Archive as partners in its digitization program, which originally launched in 2003.

The Internet Archive has pioneered digital archiving efforts for all formats, including audio and moving images. Visitors can submit and/or access anything in digital form, from public domain books to concert audio and videos, movies, and old Web sites through the Archives’ Wayback Machine.

Currently over 27,000 public domain or “appropriately licensed” books are available on the site, and the collaboration with these libraries will bring over a million to the collection.



Personal Notes

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Deaths

Virginia Young, longtime library advocate, passed away on Wednesday, March 16, in Columbia, Missouri. Young was born in Mountain View in 1919, was raised in Springfield, and lived in Columbia for over 60 years with her husband, MFA Oil Company executive Raymond Young.



A library user from childhood, she began working in the school library in junior high and high school. She attended the University of Missouri on a Curator's Scholarship and held a position at the MU library. She later received a graduate degree in library science from the University of Oklahoma.

She began her library service in 1952 when she was named to the board of trustees of the Columbia Library District (now part of the Daniel Boone Regional Library system). She served nearly ten terms on the board through 2002. She led the movement to build the original Columbia Public Library and played a key role in the realization of the current building. She authored the definitive book on library trusteeship, *The Library Trustee*, first published in 1964 and now in its fifth edition. Her knowledge, combined with her lifetime of library service all over the world, earned her an honorary membership in the American Library Association (ALA).

One of her honorary doctorate degrees reads, "Virginia Young is a forceful leader on behalf of libraries and education. Her enthusiasm, dedication and inspiration have helped to bring understanding of the importance of strong library service and quality education."

A few examples of her work, listed below, shows the dedication Young had for libraries worldwide:

American Library Trustees Association (ALTA): While president, Young was successful in getting divisional status for the trustees and established an endowment fund, now the ALTA Foundation. At her suggestion, the American Association of Library Trustees changed its name to the more pronounceable and meaningful acronym, ALTA, which, to Young, signified altitude or reaching for the heights.

Missouri Library Association (MLA): As president, she urged the MLA and the Missouri State Library to sponsor a film on public libraries titled "The Hottest Spot in Town." The show premiered in Kansas City at the 1967 ALA meeting, was shown at the UNESCO in Paris and the IFLA in Frankfurt, and received an International Film Festival Medal which she accepted in New York.

Political Work: During her MLA presidency, Young met then Governor Ronald Reagan at a hotel in which the MLA was having its banquet. A member of the Missouri General Assembly asked Young if the Governor could say a few words to the MLA group. In a brief meeting with Reagan, she explained that if he were willing to speak to this non-partisan group on behalf of libraries, he would be most welcome. Reagan accepted and followed these ground rules.

When the federal government acted to eliminate library funding, Young proposed a trustee "march" on Washington. By request of the then ALTA president, she conducted a briefing session for nearly 200 attendees. After they had met with their congressmen, she held a press conference using examples from "the pueblos to the ghettos," to explain the devastating impact the cut would bring to library services. Many say this march had more to do with the restoration of these funds than any other action.

The same ALTA president asked Young to represent trustees in a White House appointment with President Nixon arranged by then House Minority Leader Gerald Ford. The President's interest in what she had to say stretched a 15-minute appointment into 45 minutes.

At each of the two White House Conferences on Libraries and Information Services, it was decided that Young's book was the one to present to President Carter and again to President Bush.

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA): An IFLA delegate since the mid-60s, Young took an active role and worked with the leadership. In the late 1990s she created a new discussion group, Friends and Advocates of Libraries, which has sparked lively discussions of interest to developing and well-established countries alike.

As a five-year trustee of the American Library in Paris, she helped plan their 50th Anniversary celebration.

Young traveled the world and has spoken to universities, committees, organizations and lawmakers across the country.

(From the March-April 2001 "Cover to Cover," a publication of the Daniel Boone Regional Library System.)

Yvonne Humber, 99, longtime librarian, died January 13 in Carthage. She began her career in 1925, training at St. Louis Public Library's central facility for nine months. She worked in the reading room until transferring to the St. Louis County Library in 1953. She retired in 1969.

Appointments

Scott Curtis was named search service coordinator and reference librarian at the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology. Curtis will be responsible for coordinating all individualized literature searches for library users and for expanding the program. He has a background in physics and engineering management and has a master's degree in library and information management from Emporia State University.

Pamela Klipsch has been appointed director of the Jefferson County Library, effective February 1, 2005. Klipsch was previously an assistant director at Kirkwood Public Library and served 16 years as a youth services librarian in Alton, Illinois.

She holds a master's degree in library science from Indiana University.

Steve Meyer was recently hired as the new director of the Ray County Library. He began his duties as director on March 1.

Donna Swischer has been appointed as head of the document services department at the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology. She will be responsible for managing all aspects of providing documents to library users around the world and increasing the network of document service users. Swischer has been a member of the library staff since 1979, and holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri.

Wicky Sleight, director of the Kirkwood Public Library, has been appointed to the Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee, recently established by the American Library Association. The committee's charge is to serve as an advisory group to the ALA's Public Programs Office, promote excellence in cultural programming, assist library staff to become more effective providers of cultural programming, identify and disseminate resources for cultural programming, and promote the ALA's Cultural Communities Fund.

Awards

Deborah Stroup, volunteer coordinator for the Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, was recently honored with the Jacobus Tenbrock Award from the National Federation of the Blind in Missouri. The federation recognized Stroup's service and dedication, and presented her with a plaque describing her as "a truly wonderful human being." Stroup received her award at the annual banquet of the National Federation of the Blind in Missouri on March 19, 2005.

Poet laureate creates newspaper column to reach more readers

U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser is bringing poetry to the people through a newspaper column distributed to newspapers each week. The column is part of his American Life in Poetry project and will feature a poem by a living American and a brief introduction written by Kooser. The project is cosponsored by the Poetry Foundation and the Library of Congress, and the copy will be distributed free of charge to any paper wishing to carry it.

"Newspapers are close to my heart and my family," said Kooser, whose wife and son both work in journalism. "As Poet Laureate I want to show the people who read newspapers that poetry can be for them, can give them a chuckle or an insight."

Poetry was long a popular staple in the daily press, but has all but disappeared in recent years. Yet Kooser believes the attraction to it is still strong, citing the thousands of poems written about the events of September 11, 2001, that circulated on the Internet.

"Poetry has remained a perennial expression of our emotional, spiritual and intellectual lives," said Kooser. "Now I'm hoping to convince editors that there could be a small place in their papers for poetry, that it could add a spot of value in the eyes of readers."

More information about the American Life in Poetry project is available at www.poetrymagazine.org.

Libraries: how they stack up

Libraries circulate more items every day than FedEx ships packages (5.4 million vs. 5.3 million items)

U.S. public library cardholders outnumber Amazon customers by almost 5 to 1.

Libraries record more than 1.1 billion visits each year, compared to 204 million sports tickets sold in a year.

One out of every six people in the world is a registered library user.

Libraries return substantially more benefits to its users for each \$1 of annual local taxes.

From the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), September 2003
(www5.oclc.org/downloads/community/librariesstackup.pdf).

Candyfreak and Rats among books receiving 2005 Alex Awards

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has selected ten adult books that appeal to teen readers to receive the 2005 Alex Awards. YALSA and Booklist announced the Alex Awards during National Library Week in April. The 2005 Alex Awards are:

- Almond, Steve. *Candyfreak: A Journey through the Chocolate Underbelly of America*.
- Cox, Lynn. *Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer*.
- Halpin, Brendan. *Donorboy*.
- Kurson, Robert. *Shadow Divers*.
- Meyers, Kent. *Work of Wolves*.
- Patchett, Ann. *Truth & Beauty: A Friendship*.
- Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister's Keeper*.
- Reed, Kit. *Thinner Than Thou*.
- Shepard, Jim. *Project X*.
- Sullivan, Robert. *Rats: Observations on the History and Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants*.

"The list created by the 2005 Alex Awards Committee is a diverse group of both fiction and nonfiction titles that will entertain, captivate, and challenge many teens," said Kimberley Hrivnak, chair of the 2005 Alex Awards committee. "These titles speak to realities that affect all of us: unconditional friendship and love, pushing or being pushed beyond one's limits, learning about society's norms and mores, dealing with adversity, and exploring the world that surrounds us."

The Alex Awards were created to recognize that many teens enjoy and often prefer books written for adults, and to assist librarians in recommending adult books that appeal to teens. The award is named in honor of the late Margaret Alexander Edwards, fondly called "Alex" by her closest friends, a young adult specialist at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She used adult books extensively with young adults to broaden their experience and enrich their understanding of themselves and their world.

An annotated list of the Alex Award winners is available on the YALSA "for members only" Web site, in the April 1st issue of Booklist, and in the 2005 edition of ALA's Guide to Best Reading.

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